

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 IO-13 USIE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 OPR-02 CU-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /076 W
-----059858 231552Z /40

O 231445Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6280
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 1622

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SF PINS, PINT
SUBJECT: SOWETO STUDENTS MARCH ON JOHANNESBURG AS VIOLENCE FLARES

REF: A) JOHANNESBURG 1620 B) JOHANNESBURG 1497

1. SOWETO POLITICAL TENSIONS, REPRESSED OVER JUNE 16 - 18 BY
HEAVY POLICE PRESURE, BURST INTO THE OPEN TODAY AS
YOUTHS WENT ON A RAMPAGE, BURNING DOWN THE WEST RAND BOARD'S
QUOTE BOMBPROOF, BURN PROOF UNQUOTE LIQUOR STORE IN SOWETO
AND ATTEMPTING MARCH ON JOHANNESBURG. POLICE BLOCKED MARCH
BY ESTIMATED 3,000 YOUTHS AT BARAGWANETH ROAD, SCATTERING
THEM WITH TEARGAS. OTHER GROUPS (ABOUT 300) HAVING APPARENTLY
FILTERED INTO TOWN BY VARIOUS MEANS, MARCHED ON JOHANNESBURG
POLICE HEADQUARTERS THIS MORNING AND WERE SCATTERED BY
POLICE USING BATONS AND DOGS. 100 ARRESTED BY JOHANNESBURG
POLICE (REFTEL A).

2. PERCY QUOBOZA REPORTED ALL IS QUIET NOW IN THE AFTERMATH
OF WORST VIOLENCE IN LAST 12 MONTHS. ONE PERSON REPORTED
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DEAD, SIXTY WOUNDED ACCORDING TO QOBOZA'S ESTIMATES.
HOWEVER, EXPECTATIONS ARE VIOLENCE WILL FLARE AGAIN
TOMORROW ALTHOUGH IN THE PAST IT HAS PROVEN IMPOSSIBLE
TO PREDICT PATTERNS OF DISTURBANCES.

COMMENT: TWO TRENDS POSSIBLY EMERGING IN THIS LATEST ROUND OF
SOWETO VIOLENCE. FIRST, YOUTHS HAVE APPARENTLY TIRED OF

VENTING THEIR FRUSTRATIONS ON SOWETO AND LOOKING FOR WAYS TO INCREASE THE IMPACT OF THEIR DEMONSTRATIONS, HENCE, A GRADUAL SHIFTING OF THE ACTION TO JOHANNESBURG. SECOND, AN ESCALATION OF CASUALTIES CAN BE EXPECTED DESPITE VISSER'S (OR ANYONE ELSE'S) BEST EFFORTS. THIS IS DUE TO INCREASING IMPATIENCE AND FRUSTRATION, NOT TO MENTION ANGER, ON THE PART OF RANK AND FILE POLICE BUT ALSO RISING INCIDENCE OF FEAR AMONG WHITE POLICE. AS A RESULT OF ALLEGED EVIDENCE THAT THREE ARMED TERRORISTS WERE HEADING FOR SOWETO TO TAKE PART IN JUNE 16 DISTURBANCES (REFTEL B), MANY POLICE ARE NOW EXPECTING TO HAVE TO FACE ANNONYMOUS GUNFIRE IN THE MAZE OF SOWETO'S STREETS FROM ARMED TERRORISTS AND HENCE ARE INCREASINGLY EDGY.

KIRBY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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